



PLACER COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
**CORONER-MARSHAL**



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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

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UNDERSHERIFF

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Date/Time of Release: 2-7-05/4:30 AM  
Date/Time of Occurrence: 2-6-05/6:39 PM  
Nature of Call: SEARCH AND RESCUE / DOWNED AIRCRAFT  
Location of Call: SODA SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA  
Case Number: SO05-2047  
Released by: Sgt. John Giovannini 530-581-6305

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

On Sunday February 6th at 6:39 PM the Placer County sheriff's station at North Lake Tahoe received a call from the Oakland International airport advising they had lost an airplane from their radar screen, West of Lake Tahoe. The pilot had advised air traffic control his wings were icing and he was "going down". The last known GPS coordinate from air traffic control showed the plane's last known position in an approximate 2+ square mile area West of Soda Springs, Ca. This area is very rugged and only accessible by snowmobile, helicopter or ski, because of the heavy snow pack and rugged terrain. The Sheriff's Search and Rescue crews responded to the general area staging for a search at first light with state and military helicopters, snowmobile teams, cross-country skiers and snow-tractors. Search and Rescue crews had been positioning themselves throughout the night to intercept automated signals emitted from the downed aircraft to narrow down the search zone. At about 1:15 AM, personnel at Langley Air Force base in Virginia advised PCSO they had narrowed down a potential crash site based on signals transmitted from the downed aircraft, picked up by satellites. At about 1:45 AM a snow-groomer at the Sugar Bowl ski area called 911 stating he had found parts of an aircraft and a parachute in the Sugar Bowl ski area. Search crews responded to the area of the found parachute, which matched the general location given by Langley Air Force base. A debris field was found crossing the ski runs and led to

The downed aircraft is reportedly a Cirrus SR22 4-seater, equipped with a fuselage parachute.

The F.A.A. and N.T.S.B. have been notified and are participating in this investigation and search.

**Copies of this press release are available on the Placer County Sheriff's  
Department website at <http://www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff>**